

## Message Text

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ACTION ORM-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 NEA-10 ABF-01

OMB-01 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 SSO-00 /093 W

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P 101457Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 850

INFO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 7859

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: SREF, GR

SUBJECT: SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE PRESENT REFUGEE POPULATION

IN GREECE

REF: ATHENS 7433

1. PROMPTED BY THE RECENT REFUGEE ASSISTANCE CASES OF JAROSLAV TOMCIK (ATHENS 7278) AND ANTON MOUSEV (ATHENS 7594), THE EMBASSY HAS TAKEN A CLOSE LOOK AT THE REFUGEE SITUATION EXISTING IN GREECE AT PRESENT, SPECIFICALLY AS IT RELATES TO THE UTILIZATION OF THE LAVRION REFUGEE, RECEPTION AND RESETTLEMENT CENTER HERE. AS NOTED IN REFTEL, FACILITIES AT LAVRION ARE COMPLETELY FULL. THIS CROWDED CONDITION HAS NECESSITATED THE SUPPLEMENTAL UTILIZATION OF A HOTEL IN THE DOWNTOWN ATHENS AREA, THE ARCADIA HOTEL, TO ABSORB THE SIGNIFICANT "SPILLOVER" OF REFUGEES AWAITING PROCESSING.

2. AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 1975 THE UNHRC HAD ADVISED THE EMBASSY THAT THERE WERE 203 REFUGEES IN GREECE WHO ARE AWAITING COMPLETION OF PROCESSING AT THE LAVRION CENTER AND AT ITS RELATED ARCADIA HOTEL ANNEX. OF THIS TOTAL, 81 PERSONS ARE ACTUALLY AT LAVRION WITH THE BALANCE OF

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122 PERSONS BEING LOCATED AT THE ATHENS ANNEX. THE

FOLLOWING SHORT STATISTICAL PROFILE OF REFUGEE ASSISTANCE  
CASES--BY SOURCE--MIGHT PROVE USEFUL TO ADDRESSEES.

3. REFUGEES AT LAVRION AND ITS ANNEX:

A. LAVRION

EX-ISRAEL

ROMANIAN 43

RUSSIAN 12

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TOTAL 55

OTHERS

CIRCASSIANS 21

CUBANS 1

BULGARIANS 4

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TOTAL OTHERS 26

TOTAL LAVRION 81

B. CENTRAL ATHENS AUXILLIARY FACILITY (ARCADIA HOTEL)

EX-ISRAEL

ROMANIANS 64

RUSSIANS 7

BULGARIANS 3

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TOTAL EX-ISRAEL 74

OTHERS

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CIRCASSIANS 41

ROMANIANS 2

HUNGARIANS 4

CZECHS 1

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TOTAL OTHERS 48

TOTAL ARCADIA HOTEL 122

COMMENT: ADDRESSEES WILL NOTE FROM THE ABOVE PROFILE THAT CIRCASSIAN AND EX-ISRAEL REFUGEES COMPRIZE ALMOST 95 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL NUMBER.

4. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE CURRENT CROWDED SITUATION IS NOT IDEAL. IN DISCUSSING THE OVERALL QUESTION WITH THE UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE IN ATHENS, HE HAS EXPRESSED CONTINUING INTEREST IN MOVING AHEAD ON COMPLETING THE RENOVATION OF THE "OLD BUILDING" AT LAVRION SINCE THIS WOULD EFFECTIVELY DOUBLE THE NUMBER OF REFUGEES WHO COULD BE HOUSED THERE (I.E. TO AN ESTIMATED 200 FROM ITS PRESENT MAXIMUM OPTIMUM CAPACITY OF 95). OF COURSE COMPLETION OF THIS WORK IS DEPENDENT ON THE ACTUAL RELEASE OF THE \$30,000 PLEDGED BY THE USG AND THE \$10,000 PLEDGED BY THE UNHCR. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE AS TO THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE \$30,000 PLEDGE FROM THE USG. CURRENT ESTIMATES INDICATE THAT WORK COULD BE COMPLETED IN SEVERAL MONTHS ONCE THE FUNDS ARE MADE AVAILABLE. COMMENT: SINCE THE FUNDS WERE PLEDGED SOME TIME AGO, IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT INFLATIONARY FACTORS MAY NECESSITATE ADDITIONAL MONEY TO COMPLETE THE PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED WORK.

5. AGAINST THIS BACKGROUND OF THE REFUGEE OVERFLOW, THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MISSION MAY WISH TO GIVE SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO FUTURE CASES BEFORE REFERRING ADDITIONAL REFUGEES TO LAVRION. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUGGESTIONS AND/OR GUIDANCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT AND THE MISSION AS TO WHAT STEPS COULD USEFULLY BE TAKEN HERE, OR ELSEWHERE, TO SPEED UP REFUGEE PROCESSING. (NOTE: THE CONFIDENTIAL

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AVERAGE PROCESSING TIME AT LAVRION RANGES FROM BETWEEN THREE TO SIX MONTHS.)

6. FINALLY, TO THE DEGREE THE U.S. CAN MOVE AHEAD SWIFTLY IN RELEASING FUNDS FOR COMPLETION OF THE LAVRION RENOVATION WORK, CROWDED CONDITIONS WILL BE AMELIORATED THAT MUCH SOONER AND A MORE NORMAL SITUATION WILL OBTAIN HERE. OUR CONCERN IS THAT IF ADDITIONAL REFUGEES CONTINUE TO BE SENT TO LAVRION--WITHOUT ANY APPRECIABLE OUT-FLOW OF COMPLETED REFUGEE CASES, THE GOG MIGHT BEGIN TO FEEL PRESSURES AS A RESULT OF (A) THE NECESSITY TO SECURE ADDITIONAL HOTEL FACILITIES AND (B) INCREASED VISIBILITY OF REFUGEES IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS AREA.

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## Message Attributes

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